

PLO offers to suspend attacks

SINGAPORE (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it would temporarily halt violent resistance attacks if Israel and the United States accepted the holding of an international peace conference. "We would desist from exercising our right for an armed struggle against the occupation power during the period (leading to the conference)," Zehid Labib Terzi, the U.N.'s permanent observer at the United Nations, told a U.N.-sponsored conference on the Palestinian issue. Discussions in the four-day meeting which began on Monday have centred on the origins of the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict and prospects for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Mr. Terzi said different factions of the PLO would meet in Algiers on April 20 to solve their differences. He said the factions differed only in approach towards a peace settlement. Israel is not officially represented at the Singapore meeting, but its views have been advanced by David Shasham, executive director of the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, who is participating in a private capacity. Attending the meeting are journalists from 15 Asia-Pacific countries, Mr. Terzi, Mr. Shasham and U.N. officials.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily publication

جورдан تايمز يومية ناشرة عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية الرأي

Volume 12 Number 3446

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY APRIL 9-10, 1987, SHABAN 11-12, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Arab population totals 187 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The combined population of the Arab states totalled 187,949,000 in 1985, according to data released at a recent conference on Arab population policies held in Tunis. The populations of the Arab countries vary greatly. Egypt accounted for one quarter of the 1985 total, while Sudan, Morocco and Algeria each accounted for twelve per cent. The four states together had 60 per cent of the total Arab population. In contrast, Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Bahrain, Qatar, South Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates each accounted for only two per cent of the Arab total. The Arab population grew at an average annual rate of 2.9 per cent in the 1985-86 period, the conference was told.

Gorbachev due in Prague today

PRAGUE (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who delayed a visit to Czechoslovakia this week because of a reported cold, has recovered and will arrive in Prague on Thursday, a Soviet spokesman said. Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny touched off fierce speculation when he announced Sunday that Mr. Gorbachev's trip was postponed because the Soviet leader had a "slight cold." Both Mr. Narozny and Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov said Wednesday that Mr. Gorbachev would arrive in Prague on Thursday for the three-day visit.

Panel slashes 'Star Wars' funds

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives Armed Services Committee has slashed President Reagan's funding request for the "Star Wars" strategic defence initiative, approving \$1.7 billion less than he had asked for the programme. The committee approved \$3.5 billion for the strategic defence initiative, a land-and-space-based anti-missile defence programme. The amount was \$1.7 billion less than the administration's request of \$5.2 billion.

123 bodies recovered from capsized ferry

ZEEBRUGGE (AP) — Divers braved horrifying scenes of bodies strewn among piles of debris to recover about 123 corpses Wednesday from the partly submerged ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, officials said. Olivier Venesse, governor of the province of West Flanders, told reporters that 63 bodies had been recovered overnight and that about another 60 were brought ashore during a daylight diving operation (See earlier story on page 8).

Fahd leaves Britain

LONDON (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia left Britain on Wednesday after a two-week visit, which included talks with Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The king, accompanied by 40 aides, left Heathrow airport in his private Boeing 747 jet bound for southern Spain.

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Rifai says Washington talks narrowed some differences

Prime minister and Masri to report to King in London on outcome of discussions in U.S.

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai left Washington for London on Wednesday after a three-day visit during which he conferred with senior Reagan administration officials on efforts towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Rifai, accompanied by Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri, held talks with U.S. Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger on the Middle East conflict and prospects for the proposed international conference. Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri also met with several senators and other officials.

The prime minister and foreign minister are expected to report to His Majesty King Hussein in

London. The King arrived in the British capital on the last leg of a four-nation visit which took him to Morocco, The Netherlands and Belgium for talks with the leaders of these countries and the presidency of the European Community (EC) on Middle East peace efforts. The King is scheduled to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during his stay in London.

Prior to his departure from Washington, Mr. Rifai told reporters Jordan and the U.S. had

cussed the principle any more. We're discussing the details," Mr. Rifai said. He said Jordan would continue consultations with the United States on the subject.

The United States initially rejected the idea of a conference, but in recent months has said it would support such a conference if it led to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Mr. Rifai also said Jordan had coordinated its position closely with Syria, which he said was willing to participate in an international forum.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Tuesday the United States was exploring signals from Damascus regarding Syrian willingness to negotiate with Israel.

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected the idea of an international conference. Other

(Continued on page 4)

30 hospitalised in continuing hunger-strike in W.Bank jails

36 injured in clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Thirty-six people were injured in clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, reports filed by news agencies said.

The protests were mounted in support of Palestinian prisoners who have carried out a 15-day hunger-strike protesting conditions in Israeli jails.

Soldiers also shot teargas canisters at 40 university students who marched through Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, sources and witnesses quoted by AP said.

Palestinian merchants closed their shops in three cities including Jerusalem to demonstrate solidarity with the hunger-strikers, who are protesting deteriorating prison conditions, Israeli police said.

The Al Shahab newspaper said

Wednesday that 30 out of more than 4,000 striking prisoners have been hospitalised this week. Two were reported being fed intravenously.

Israeli newspapers said eight

grouped, and in Jenin where a masked man stabbed and wounded a Palestinian student, the army spokesman said.

Palestinian sources in Nablus later challenged the Israeli army version of the Asfar camp incident, saying students had told them the 21 boys had been injured by Israeli troops who baton-charged a school after protesters threw stones at them.

Salah Khanoun Hwawar, 18, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound to his shoulder and 11 of the students received medical treatment after being clubbed or having their heads bashed together, the sources said.

A woman identifying herself as Hwawar's mother told Reuters

she was there suffering from a gunshot wound.

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Beirut airport, Halat airstrip remain closed amid threats

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami says Beirut International Airport, closed since Feb. 1, is ready to resume operations. But threats by Falangist militia chiefs continue to keep Lebanon's only civilian air facility shut.

Falangist militias are demanding that a makeshift airport already in use north of Beirut be recognised officially as a second facility for Falangist travellers afraid to journey to the existing airport, located in Khalde, a Shi'ite Muslim suburb.

The year-old Falangist demand has been rejected by the opposition, who maintain opening a second airport would mean the de facto partitioning of Lebanon.

But the Christians are pressing their demand by threatening to use their artillery, situated on the hills above Beirut airport, to force Beirut airport unless they are granted their own facility of equal status in the Falangist coastal town of Halat.

At Halat, 32 kilometres north of Beirut, a portion of the coastal highway has been transformed into an air strip. Syrian troops overlook Halat Airport from hills to the north.

Syrian units, deployed in mainly Muslim west Beirut on Feb. 22, also are stationed at Beirut airport on the city's southern outskirts.

Halat has a runway 2,170 metres long and 30 metres wide and can accommodate the landing and takeoff of medium-sized jets, said Rudolf Paulikovich, an aide to Danny Chamoun, leader of the Christian National Liberal Party.

Vanuatu hits at Hawke's remark on Libya

SYDNEY (R) — Vanuatu Wednesday rejected Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's warning to South Pacific nations against dealing with Libya, which he said was trying to promote unrest in the region.

The Australian Associated Press news agency reported that Vanuatu Foreign Minister Sela Molisa also dismissed reports that Libya had been giving para-military training to some Vanuatu nationals as part of an attempt to undermine the area.

Libya, which established diplomatic relations with the island

fleet of 15 jets, he said.

Sam Geagea, commander of Lebanon's largest Falangist militia, the right-wing Lebanese Forces, said there was "absolutely no chance" of reopening the airport.

In an interview Saturday at his office in Christian east Beirut, Mr. Geagea said even the presence of Syrian troops at Beirut airport would not save it from retaliation.

"It's for the convenience of the people and it's a humanitarian issue, an economic issue. It has everything that is beneficial to Lebanon," Mr. Chamoun said.

For the moment, Falangist and the opposition travel by boat to Cyprus and take flights from Larnaca, or travel by land to Syria for a flight from Damascus airport.

The closing of Beirut airport was prompted by danger to jetliners and passengers travelling into and out of the facility.

Middle East Airlines (MEA), Lebanon's national carrier, announced the suspension of flights to Beirut airport after an empty Boeing 707 was set ablaze Jan. 8 by a barrage of shelling.

But Mr. Karami, a Sunni Muslim, took an equally strong position against the Falangist airport.

In a speech Saturday, Mr. Karami said Beirut airport, "was, still and will continue to be ready to receive any plane that wants to land and take off from it."

Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt, who is Lebanon's minister of public transport and controls aviation, has said he wouldn't mind operating the Falangist airport at Halat under his ministry.

Mr. Hawke Tuesday warned South Pacific island nations against dealing with Libya, which he claimed was trying "to promote terrorism, conflict and unrest in the region."

Mr. Hawke told reporters during a visit to Melbourne Tuesday night that Australia was seriously worried about Libya's move into the area.

"Nations in the South Pacific should not get entangled with Libyans. It is just preposterous.

They have a monstrous record in their relations with other countries," Mr. Hawke said.

The Libyans have diplomatic representation in Canberra and nobody is saying that is a springboard for terrorism," he said.

Qadhafi pledges new efforts to end Gulf war

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has pledged to undertake new moves to end the Gulf war, saying he wanted Iran and Iraq to direct their efforts to fighting "Zionism and imperialism."

Col. Qadhafi, speaking Tuesday night on Libyan television, said Tripoli opposed neither of the two belligerents but the G-2 year-old war was pointless.

"Our call is sincere when we announce that we want an end to this war because we want Iran and Iraq alongside each other to fight Zionism and imperialism," he said in the broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

U.S., Gulf states continue talks on threat to shipping

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department on Tuesday declined to comment on a report that Kuwait was proposing putting some of its tankers under U.S. or Soviet flags as a protection against Iranian attacks.

"(U.S.) discussions continue with the Gulf states, including Kuwait, on the threat posed by Iranian attacks on neutral shipping," State Department Spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

Redman said the discussions were consistent with the U.S. pledge to assure that oil shipments will continue to move freely through the Strait of Hormuz and with the great importance the United States attaches to freedom of navigation in international waters.

"I can't go into the details or the various stages of these discussions," Redman said. He was commenting on a report in the New York Times that Kuwait was proposed transferring registration of some of their oil tankers to U.S., Soviet or European registries.

ROPME groups the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — plus Iran and Iraq, which have been at war since September 1980.

Arab Americans 'getting their voices heard'

can't ignore the press ... in setting the record straight," he said.

Representatives from the media also stressed the need for communication and involvement.

Steve Franklin,

a national cor-

respondent for the Chicago Tribune, said that although "journalists have a duty to listen to the voice of minorities," Arab Americans must "become engaged in the battle" in order to make a difference.

Representative Nick Rahall,

who is of Lebanese origin, said that although Arab Americans in the past had been slow getting involved in the political process, "we have come a long way in recent years.

Both congressmen stressed the importance of communicating with elected officials and the media. People at the local level should be talking to congressmen about issues of concern to Arab Americans, said Mr. Bonior. "I don't hear from you" enough, he added. Mr. Rahall pointed out the role of the media in educating American public opinion. "You

have to show that there is a clear and present danger to public order. That was not the case here."

Mr. Erakat, a 31-year-old politi-

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As part of his duties as spokes-

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years of Israeli occupation in the

West Bank, "Palestinians must

learn how to endure and reject

and resist" all the forms of

occupation — New York Times.

Israel delays sentencing of Arab academic

Court.

"What we are going to ask the

Supreme Court," Mr. Feldman

said after the verdict, "is to de-

fine exactly what are the limits of

free speech in the occupied terri-

tories. To prove incitement, they

have to show that there is a clear

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Demjanjuk lawyer challenges witness' credibility

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk's defence attorney chal-

lenged the credibility of a West

German historian Wednesday

and tried to show documentary

evidence presented in the Nazi

war crimes trial was chosen selec-

tively.

Wolfgang Scheffler, 57, a Ber-

lin historian specializing in Nazi

documents, testified Tuesday that

the key prosecution documents,

an SS identity card bearing Dem-

janjuk's name, appeared authen-

tic in all details.

The testimony undermined de-

fence allegations that the ID card

issued by the Trawniki training

camp for Nazi warbs was forged

by the Soviet Union.

Scheffler, a historian at Ber-

lin's Free University, said forging

ID card would have required

"supernatural abilities"

and added he had never seen a forged

document in 25 years of study.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk,

67, a former U.S. autoworker,

is accused of being "Ivan the

terrible," the guard who ran the

gas chambers at the Treblinka

Camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The defence contends Demjan-

juk was a prisoner of war in other

Nazi camps during that period,

and the Soviets forged the ID

card party became Demjanjuk

served at the end of the war in an

anti-Communist unit formed by

the Germans.

On Wednesday, American atto-

ney Mark O'Connor ag-

gressively questioned Scheffler ab-

out how he chose the Nazi docu-

ments, many with no direct

relation to Demjanjuk, were en-

tered into evidence Tuesday.

HOSPITALS

Hossein Medical Centre .. 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann .. 644231/6

Alech Maternity, J. Ann .. 644241/2

Jahid Maternity .. 642362

Al-Aqsa Maternity .. 642363

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Al-Abi, Abdell .. 777101/3

Al-Basha, Abdell .. 777112/6

Al-Shabab .. 691611/5

Scholars end seminar on Islamic finance systems

IRBID (Petra) — A four-day symposium on financial administration in the Islamic era, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, concluded on Wednesday at Yarmouk University and issued its recommendations.

The symposium stressed the necessity of teaching Islamic economics at the B.A. and post graduate levels at Islamic universities and institutes. Participants also praised the post graduate study programme in Islamic economics taught at Yarmouk University's Islamic Studies Centre. They also called for continued

encouragement for scientific research in Islamic economics and its contemporary applications to help find solutions to the economic problems facing the Islamic World. The participants also requested that the university's Islamic Studies Centre hold an annual seminar on Islamic economy and its contemporary applications.

The recommendations also pointed out that the financial system in Islam is comprehensive and rich in its ideas and principles which are suitable as the basis for organising the financial affairs of a contemporary state.

The programme aims at de-

East German minister of higher education ends visit

JAMTHA (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education in the German Democratic Republic Professor Hans Joachim Baume Wednesday left for the Syrian capital of Damascus, winding up a four-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and a number of senior officials.

Prof. Baume said that his talks with Jordanian officials emphasized the two countries' common interest in solving the conflict in

the Middle East and holding an international conference for Middle East peace. He added that he discussed a number of issues to strengthen and bolster cooperation in education fields as well as bilateral relations and the exchange of experience.

Prof. Baume earlier Wednesday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Yarmouk University in Irbid where he met with their presidents and was briefed on their present and future plans.

Hungarian official discusses cooperation in water, sewerage

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali Wednesday met with Hungarian Deputy Secretary of State for Water Affairs Antal Kovacs who arrived here Tuesday at the head of a delegation on a six-day visit to Jordan. Talks during the meeting, which was attended by Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani, dealt with existing cooperation between the two countries and means of further promoting this coordination, especially in water related fields.

Talks between the Jordanian and Hungarian sides began on Wednesday at the WAJ to discuss scopes of cooperation between the two countries in water and sewerage fields. During the talks, co-chaired by Mr. Keilani and Mr. Kovacs, the two sides also discussed cooperation in the transfer of technical information on these stations.

about water and sewerage between concerned corporations in the two countries and training in water technologies as well as the exchange of experience.

They also discussed holding joint lectures and seminars between the two water authorities of the two countries and the possibility of benefiting from Hungarian expertise in this field.

The WAJ president also outlined the projects being carried out by the authority to improve the standard of water services in the country. The Hungarian official expressed his country's readiness to offer technical consultancy services to the WAJ to support its projects.

Later on Wednesday, the Hungarian delegation visited the water treatment stations in Khirbet Al Samra and Ierash where they were briefed on the work of these stations.

Planning official briefs Danish team on development schemes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Ziyad Fariz Wednesday met with a visiting Danish trade team and briefed its members on Jordan's five-year development scheme and the projects to be implemented from now until 1990.

He also spoke about measures undertaken by the government to create a suitable atmosphere for stimulating the national economy and encouraging investments in the Kingdom.

Dr. Fariz urged the team to help adjust the trade balance between Jordan and Denmark, which is now clearly in the latter's favour, by importing more Jorda-

nian phosphates and fertilisers.

The Danish team had already met with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud who spoke about his ministry's projects within the 1986-1990 five-year plan. The team also met Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher who outlined Jordan's drive to encourage foreign investments in the Kingdom.

The leader of the delegation, Poul Sondergaard, earlier said that Denmark was seeking ways and means of boosting cooperation with Jordan by setting up joint ventures and increasing the volume of bilateral trade. Mr. Sondergaard said that it was premature to identify areas for possible cooperation, but noted that fruit processing, agricultural industries and other related fields would figure high as prospective projects.

Italy supports hearing centre, rehabilitation programme with JD 658,000 grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The govern-

ment of Jordan, represented by Mr. Khalid Al Haj Hassan, minister of labour and social development, and the government of Italy, represented by Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi, Italian ambassador to Jordan, Wednesday signed a three year cooperation protocol under which Italy will grant Jordan 2,435 million lire (JD 658,000) to finance technical assistance programme with the Queen Alia Hearing and Speech Centre, according to a press release issued by the Italian Embassy in Amman.

The programme aims at developing an overall health policy for the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of speech and hearing disorders in children by means of: the early singling out of risk subject; clinical examination of doubtful cases; drafting and development of rehabilitation programmes aimed specifically at children of developing age; training and refresher courses for social and health-related workers and the promotion of social and health related information activities.

Within the framework, the Italian contribution shall consist of: technical and scientific coor-

dination of cooperation activities and supervision of programme's implementation; sending of expert personnel; arrangement on the job training courses and refresher seminars; granting scholarships; supply of scientific equipment required for the prevention diagnosis and rehabilitation units set up at the centre.

The protocol is an extension of a previous one signed in 1982 and completed few months ago, financed with grant of 1560 million lire (JD 421,000) by the Italian Department of Cooperation and Development, the re-

lease said.

Local potatoes take over the market from imports

JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — The application of the agricultural patterns system in Jordan and cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers

has led to self-sufficiency in certain types of vegetables and fruit in the Kingdom, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said on Wednesday.

He said that potatoes, which Jordan used to import in great quantities as recently as last year, are now produced in abundance here and there is even a surplus for export.

The minister was addressing a ceremony for opening an exhibition of locally grown potatoes which was organised at the University of Jordan's farm in the Jordan Valley region. Mr. Hmoud urged farmers to direct their attention towards the production of carrots which he said Jordan still imports in large quantities.

The Ministry of Agriculture's policies are intended to encourage people and merchants to reduce their imports of vegetables and fruits as much as possible, and to continue to help local farmers increase their production, Mr. Hmoud added. He said that farmers ought to diversify

their products so that they can always find markets for the different items either in Jordan or abroad.

The exhibition is designed to display different strains of potatoes which have been locally produced and to orient farmers on these varieties. Advisors at the exhibition will also guide farmers on production methods and instruct them on means of keeping their crops free from diseases and indigenous pests.

In addition to different types of potatoes, the exhibition also displays agricultural implements and chemical products used in combating diseases and pests.

A number of university students and teachers attending the opening ceremony presented a briefing on the items on display and also spoke about the major diseases affecting the production of potatoes. Dr. Mahmoud Dweini, dean of the university's Faculty of Agriculture, said the plans have been made to set up similar exhibitions displaying different vegetables and fruit produced in the country. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi was among the officials present at the ceremony.

Regional talks tackle costs of production in poultry industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-day regional symposium on the poultry industry ended in Amman on Wednesday and issued recommendations that measures be taken to reduce the costs of producing animal feed in order for countries of the region to market their products at a lower cost.

A statement issued at the end of the final session said that efforts should be made to employ local materials and the national workforce and to benefit from national poultry training centres in a drive to reduce the cost of producing poultry meat and table eggs. The statement, read out by Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khazraji, director of the Jordan-based Regional Poultry Training and Development Centre for the Near East, said that the meeting recommended that modern poultry slaughter houses, grading centres and centres for marketing eggs as well as the creation of cooperatives should be encouraged.

The production of poultry meat and table eggs should be rationalised and geared to local consumption as the first step towards organising the poultry industry in the region, the statement said.

The statement urged various parties involved in the poultry industry to introduce computers into poultry production operations and also to increase their dependence on modern means of combating diseases which affect poultry and birds, and to employ standard specifications in controlling quality.

According to Dr. Khazraji, 18 working papers were discussed at the meeting, most of them dealing with means of reducing production costs and organising the marketing of products. Delegates from 12 Near Eastern countries took part in the meeting. Dr. Khazraji added.

The Italian government contributed towards the establishment of the regional training centre in Jordan, and the Jordanian government provided the land and buildings for the project.

Chinese envoy lauds ties with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador in Amman Chang Jin has paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein, the people and the government of Jordan and praised the existing ties of friendship between Jordan and China. He said that the leaders of the two countries always worked towards supporting and bolstering bilateral relations.

Mr. Jin made his comment during a dinner banquet which he hosted Tuesday at the Chinese Embassy on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Jordan and China. He added that China supports His Majesty's call for holding an international conference on Middle East peace under U.N. auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. China will continue to cooperate with Jordan and other Arab countries to achieve the aspired goals, the ambassador said.

Acting Foreign Minister Thoukan Al Hindawi also delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to relations between the two countries in various fields. He also expressed Jordan's satisfaction with China's stands towards just Arab causes, at the top of which is the peace issue in the Middle East region.

The banquet was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, the acting foreign minister and a number of ministers and senior officials.

Transport Ministry takes steps to boost cargo handling at Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Minis-

Passenger traffic

He said that passengers coming to or leaving Jordan in 1986 via Aqaba were 839,000 and added that the port authorities are installing facilities at the cost of JD 1.5 million to enable the port to process greater numbers of passengers. Work on this project, he said, will be completed in the coming year.

Railway expansion

Referring to the railway network, the minister said that the country's railways are being modernised and extended to help boost the national economy. A sum of JD 5.5 million has been spent on improving 64 kilometres of the Aqaba railway in order to boost its capacity and raise to 4.5 million tonnes annually the amount of phosphates being transported to the port for export.

The Ministry of Transport has embarked on renewing an additional 116 kilometres of the railway network at a cost of JD 11.5

million and has contracted firms for purchasing 90 wagons to transport more phosphates, the minister said. He said that the wagons will cost JD 1.648 million and will be operational by 1988.

Referring to public transport, the minister said that within Amman there are 431 buses being operated by the Public Transport Corporation which also operates buses on 13 other routes from and to Amman employing an additional 96 buses. It is estimated that these buses transported 86 million passengers during the past two years, the minister pointed out.

On air transport, the minister referred to projects as the central radar system at the Queen Alia International Airport which he said has provided greater safety

measures and boosted the national air carrier's capacity. He also briefed the journalists on a number of projects undertaken by Royal Jordanian for boosting its operations and providing better services.

Ministry lifts advance permit requirement for recently-hired Egyptian agricultural workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian workers employed in agriculture and who entered Jordan after Jan. 1, 1987 without obtaining work permits in advance from the Ministry of Labour will be allowed to stay on and continue working for their employers, according to new instructions issued on Wednesday by Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

The instructions stated that the Ministry of Labour will now accept and approve applications from farmers to keep Egyptian workers who entered the country this year without permits. The ministry earlier announced that prior approval should be obtained before the arrival of the Egyptian workers to take up their jobs and the new measure reverses earlier instructions.

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Employment offices around the

Kingdom should also open files for each farm to indicate the number of workers employed in the business and to submit periodic reports to the Ministry of Labour on the situation, Dr. Utoun added.

Egyptian workers, like all other non-Jordanian workers, pay JD 30 to the Ministry of Labour for annual permit fees except those employed in agriculture who pay JD 10.

Dr. Utoun last month said that Jordanians wishing to em-

ploy Egyptian workers should submit requests together with a contract for employment to the Ministry of Labour for approval. If approval was granted, the forms would then be referred to the Egyptian Embassy in Amman to finalise procedures before the workers arrived in the Kingdom.

He also said that Egyptian workers employed in Jordan before Jan. 1, 1987 and holding permits issued before that date will be exempted from the new proce-

dures.

The committee deals with issues ranging from the flow of capital among Arab states to investments, Mr. Obeidi said.

The committee will discuss a host of studies and important working papers dealing with monetary and financial issues and coordination in these matters among Arab states.

The committee, which groups representatives of seven Arab states, will also discuss Arab investments in non-Arab states and the flight of Arab capital.

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Time for progress in Middle East peace

By David Steel

The following article, by the leader of the British Liberal Party, is reprinted from the Jeddah-based Arab News.

LONDON — KING Fahd's visit to Britain last week was an occasion for celebration. Britain and Saudi Arabia enjoy good relations which have helped us achieve considerable mutual successes. Personally, I remember with fond affection my own two visits to Saudi Arabia and my conversations with the country's ruling family. I am pleased to have benefited from their insights into the problems of the Middle East and in particular of the war-torn Palestinians.

That is why I was so pleased with the recent European initiative calling for an all-party conference on the Middle East.

It has long been clear that this is the only way forward — for it is beyond the capabilities of any one government to unilaterally dictate a Middle East settlement.

Much as it might like, the White House can no more impose a settlement on the Middle East than can the PLO or the Syrians or the Israelis. The Americans' unhappy experience in Lebanon in 1983 showed that. Nor can the Soviets.

Such a sense of despondency is understandable. There have been so many worthy initiatives — the Fez plan, the Reagan plan, the King Hussein plan are but three — yet for one reason or another

they have sunk without trace. But the monumental injustice of the situation, the plight of the Palestinians which has again been vividly shown in Beirut, demands that the effort goes on. There is a moral imperative on every government, regardless of whether it is directly involved in the dispute or not, to work for a solution — just as there is a moral imperative on every government to work for racial justice in South Africa.

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House can no more impose a settlement on the Middle East than can the PLO or the Syrians or the Israelis. The Americans' unhappy experience in Lebanon in 1983 showed that. Nor can the Soviets.

It is equally obvious that an unrepresentative huddle of governments cannot succeed either. There is no point pinning hopes

on the United States, Israel, Egypt and Jordan hammering out a peace formula. It has about as much chance as one hammered out by Syria and Jordan, or by Syria and the Soviet Union or by Jordan and the PLO. There has to be discussion involving all the parties involved. That includes the Israelis and PLO as well as the Jordanians, the Syrians and the Egyptians. The realities of power politics in the region demand it. Any attempt to exclude a party dooms the attempt to failure. The two superpowers also have to be involved for they can, if necessary, bring pressure to bear on the main contestants should they prove obdurate.

The groundwork for this latest initiative was started by Dutch Foreign Minister Van den Brook

when he was president of the European Council of Ministers this time last year. It was perhaps regrettable that when the British government took over the six-month presidency last July, very little was done to build on the Dutch efforts. It was not till this year when the Belgians took on the presidency that the initiative got under steam again. I am happy to say that much of the

credit for this belongs to one of my fellow European Liberals and former president of Liberal International, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans who has worked tirelessly to achieve success since he has taken over as president.

But this initiative will be stillborn if the Europeans do not follow it up. We do not want or need another Venice Declaration — fine words followed by seven years of inaction. There is no point in coming up with a good idea and then sitting back, hoping that others will do all the work. Having made the initiative, the European Community must now prepare the ground for such a conference.

But what about the Arab governments?

They too must seize the initiative — and be seen to do so. They cannot afford to sit back and expect others to do the work for them — because no one will. It is no good complaining that other countries were responsible for the Palestinian problem and that it is up to them to resolve it. Such an attitude only damages Arab international credibility.

Obviously, it would be folly to

say that either Britain or Saudi Arabia can achieve anything by themselves. But they have major "enabling" roles to play in this initiative, Britain because of its influential position in Europe, and Saudi Arabia because of its in the Arab World. One may, of course, question whether Europe has a role to play. But I think it does, acting in the position of "honest broker."

There remains the question of Washington, which as we all know, holds the key to the Middle East problem. The main difficulty with this initiative will undoubtedly be getting the White House to take it seriously, especially given the presidency's current political paralysis over the Iran arms scandal.

But if there are two countries, one European and the other Arab, to which Washington will listen, they are Britain and Saudi Arabia. Together, we can exert a considerable influence on American thinking — and, even more importantly, on American public opinion. Washington may hold the key, but we can oil the lock. It is certainly worth trying for the sake of peace. Moreover, there is a rare opportunity in the situation that

Unfair treatment

THE Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences' (AOAS) recent decision to terminate the services of 32, mostly Jordanian, staff members impels us to ask about the reason behind the move and its implications.

The surprise decision no doubt has come as a great disappointment to those staff members who had been feeling proud and privileged to serve with an Arab League affiliate organisation. All of a sudden 32 working people found themselves in the streets apparently for no good reason at all.

This action by the AOAS seems odd coming as it is at a time when this organisation boasts of working to develop Arab management practices and lectures on administrative sciences. It has itself demonstrated through this arbitrary measure that it lacks the simplest understanding of administration, which it was originally set up to develop and promote.

The dismissal of 32 staff members, under the pretext of financial problems, should be reviewed with a view to correcting the decision. It is one of the simplest rights of staff, to be given a notice period in accordance with rules and regulations in force in most countries of the world; the AOAS should be no exception. All international and pan-Arab organisations are nowadays encountering financial difficulties, but so far none of them has acted the way the AOAS did.

Well, if the organisation's financial constraints have really prompted this decision, why did the organisation fail to give the laid-off staff a sufficient prior notice? Instead the organisation gave them an on-the-spot order to leave the office and not to report to work the next day. If it was correct that the organisation's financial difficulties were behind the unfair decision, why should the locally recruited staff, mostly Jordanians, be the victims? Is it because our government has welcomed and hosted this organisation, as it does other Arab and international organisations? Or is it because the Jordanian government, despite its very limited financial resources, was one of only two Arab countries (the other is Saudi Arabia) to have honoured its commitment to this organisation?

The AOAS decision should not pass without undergoing a thorough review and discussion. It should receive due attention from the Arab League and from the concerned Jordanian authorities because it represents a violation of and a departure from all rules and regulations governing the relation between the employers and the employee. It is painful enough to be stabbed by your enemy, but it is more painful when the stab comes from your brethren.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King's efforts continue

JORDAN is currently involved in endeavours for convening an international conference and carrying out efforts in this respect in Europe and the United States. In his current tour of European capitals, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East and emphasised the need for a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli problem through an international conference. He has reiterated this stand in Holland and Belgium as he did before in other European countries, and is expected to follow up the same endeavour during his present visit to Britain. As an offshoot of the King's talks, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans plans to make a tour of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel later this month for further discussions and more talks on the subject of the Middle East. It is clear that the tour will be in favour of the proposed conference in line with the Brussels Declaration by the European Community foreign ministers. The King's tour in Europe, backed by Soviet support for the proposed conference and the Brussels declaration on the Middle East constitute a very positive element in the preparation for the coming conference. In the American arena, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is involved in talks with U.S. administration officials on the question of the international conference. These talks represent the last link in efforts for convening the conference. Any open and frank U.S. support for the conference would constitute a significant step towards initiating it and implementing United Nations resolutions.

Al Dustour: Europe shows more concern

THE tumultuous welcome King Hussein is accorded by his European hosts during his current tour of Europe reflects the deep appreciation of Jordan's policies in general and this country's endeavours for solving the Middle East problem in particular. The great interest displayed by European government leaders in the King's visits reflects deep respect for the monarch and his relentless efforts not only to serve Arab causes but also to enhance the cause of world peace. The King's visit to Brussels and his talks there came in the wake of the Brussels declaration in which the governments of the European Community has voiced support for the idea of peace, coming through an international conference. The King has been met with welcome and his ideas drew favourable response and a clear indication that the European Community intends to put its ideas into practice. The leaders of European governments have heard King Hussein presenting the Arab views about the international conference and the need for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. King Hussein has carried these ideas to the European Community which more than other nations can understand the nature of things in the Arab area due to the close links they maintain with Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shabab: Iranian offensive expected

IRAN has been expected to launch what it terms as Karbala eight offensive on Iraq at this particular moment; and as expected, the Iraqis are bound to inflict more defeat on the invaders. The Iranians are afraid of political pressure on them to stop the war and have been disturbed by the continuous turmoil inside Iran and the struggle for power in Tehran. These may have been the two major reasons behind the new offensive on Iraq and their insistence on rejecting peace bids from any source. The Iranians are still adamant and still determined to pursue the fighting though they know for sure that the Iraqi armed forces are continuously being strengthened and are certain to thwart the dreams of the Iranian rulers. The rulers in Tehran hope with these new battles to forestall any diplomatic initiative for ending the conflict altogether or destroy any hope of reaching a settlement by peaceful means. The rulers of Tehran are pursuing the war in their hope of maintaining their hold on power in Iran and influence over the Iranian people.

Sweden boosts anti-apartheid aid to southern African nations

By Dick Soderlund
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden has increased aid to South Africa's neighbouring states in an attempt to offset any backlash by Pretoria to international economic sanctions.

Foreign Trade Minister Anita Grdin on March 12 presented to parliament a bill banning trade with South Africa. She said she hoped the measure would induce other countries to take similar steps soon.

But even before passage of the trade bill, Sweden's parliament had increased by one-third aid to the neighbouring states of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in preparation for possible South African reprisals against passage of the trade ban.

South Africa had warned that sanctions would hurt most its own black population and those neighbouring countries which rely on South Africa's economic well-being.

This year, Sweden has earmarked 2.2 billion kronor (\$350 million) for the seven frontline states — an increase of 660 million kronor (\$100 million) from 1986.

The figure is nearly half of Sweden's total foreign aid. The rest goes to about a dozen countries including the Marxist governments of Ethiopia, Vietnam and Nicaragua.

Sweden is one of the few countries that meets a United Nations standard of contributing about 1 per cent of its gross national product to foreign aid.

"We are prepared to go further to meet acute needs," said Christian Isaksson, an official in Sweden's ministry for foreign aid.

"We have just decided to give several more millions (of kronor) of humanitarian aid to Mozambique, which is plagued by civil war," he said.

Despite public pressure to pass the bill, the Swedish government hesitated for several months before declaring the unilateral trade ban against South Africa. Opponents of the measures argued that it would harm Swedish businesses and their black employees in South Africa and could cost as much as 8,000 Swedish jobs.

The bill passed anyway, enhancing Sweden's role as a leader among Scandinavian nations in opposing apartheid, South Africa's system of racial discrimination.

Denmark last June was the first to impose a trade ban. Norway is considering a bill that would stop purchases on Norwegian ships.

But Sweden, as long as 1979 imposed sanctions against South Africa by prohibiting new investments, becoming one of the first international nations to do so.

South Africa has taken no action recently against the frontline states.

But Sweden had feared that the white-ruled government might sever its black neighbours from their vital trade and transportation routes through South Africa in retaliation against international sanctions.

The idea of helping South Africa's neighbours gain economic independence has been motivating Swedish aid to southern Africa.

Sweden contributed close to 500 million kronor (\$77 million) between 1980 and 1985 to SADC, mostly for transportation and telecommunications. It has allocated another 560 million kronor (\$86 million) for the 1986-1988 period and the amount could be increased.

Major Swedish aid projects — some financed in conjunction with other Nordic nations and within the SADCC framework — include a microwave telecommunications network between Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and nearby states to circumvent South Africa.

Following are the statements by Mr. Shultz and Mr. Rifai after Tuesday's talks:

Mr. Shultz: The prime minister and the foreign minister of Jordan and I and my colleagues have had some very worthwhile and constructive discussions. The prime minister has also been visiting with members of Congress. He is seeing the vice president and others and he is, of course, always warmly welcome here.

The United States is deeply interested always in the importance of finding a way toward stability and peace in the Middle East; this subject has been at the centre of our discussions — how to do it. We recognise the importance, in the end of the parties to discussion in any area in getting together and working out for themselves what they think is appropriate whether it be Israel and Jordan with the Palestinians, or Israel and Syria in the case of the Golan Heights, or as we have seen, Israel and Egypt in arriving at the peace treaty that they have in force.

Mr. Shultz: Thank you very much. My discussions with the secretary of state have been very useful and fruitful. We had a frank and friendly exchange of views. I reaffirmed to the secretary of state our strong commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem. I repeated, reiterated, our conviction that such a settlement requires an international conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the involved parties.

Our discussions also covered a variety of bilateral and regional issues. We have made some progress. We certainly will continue our close contacts and dialogues with the secretary of state who is held in great esteem and respect. We will continue to work with him closely. We believe that we will be able to overcome any differences that exist if they ever did or do since we share a common objective, namely peace in the Middle East.

I am grateful Mr. Secretary for the warmth of your welcome, and I look forward to our continuing discussion to achieve the goals and objectives which we com-

monly share.

Question: Mr. Secretary, does the U.S. now support the international peace conference, or does it not?

Shultz: We support peace and efforts to get there and we believe the essential negotiations on the road are bilateral regional negotiations. To bring those negotiations about, certainly, we need to explore — as we have been with the prime minister — the question of how an international conference might contribute to that end.

Mr. Shultz: I have a question for the prime minister. If you don't leave now, how are you going to get to the vice president's at three o'clock? It is now ten past three. (laughter)

Mr. Rifai: I am already late, hah? (laughter)

Murphy comments on aid

In another development, Assistant Secretary of State Murphy testified before the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on the administration's request for aid to various countries.

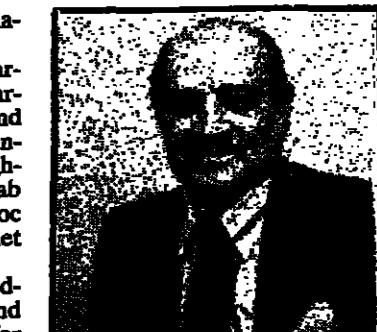
Following is the part of Mr. Murphy's testimony related to Jordan:

Despite a record of careful planning and good husbanding of scarce resources, Jordan now confronts serious regional economic trends. Jordan's once robust economy now faces increasing unemployment, a substantial trade imbalance, lower remittances from workers overseas, and a foreign exchange shortage. Jordan depends heavily on external receipts to drive its service-oriented economy, yet worker

is worth taking advantage of. The White House is desperate to divert attention from the Iran arms scandal and show that President Reagan's is anything but a lame duck presidency. Mikhail Gorbachev, with a well-timed offer on the zero option, clearly understated this.

If the Europeans and Arabs put every effort toward making this latest initiative work, it could just succeed. The Soviets have given it their backing, the Israeli Labour Party shows signs of coming round to the idea, even the Americans are clearly no longer so opposed. No one is saying that an international conference will come up with the final answer straightaway. That is too optimistic. But at least we would have moved the proceedings a stage or two along in the right direction.

This is a time of possibilities, a time when the superpowers are making gestures of good will for the sake of international peace and stability, a time when initiatives are being made and can be grasped. With the superpowers in a constructive mood, there is a rare opportunity for progress in the Middle East. It must not be missed.



Dr. John Buontempo ambassador to Tunis is also accredited to Malta which, since December 1983, maintained a consulate in Amman with Mr. Yann Bustami as honorary consul.

In the 1981 elections the Labour party won 34 seats with 49 per cent of the vote and the Nationalist got 31 seats with 51 per cent of the vote.

After four years of negotiations, the two parties agreed that the party with more than 50 per cent of the vote would obtain a parliamentary majority. In return for granting this concession, the Labour party obtained Nationalist party agreement that an election result could be annulled if there was any "foreign interference".

On Monday, agency reports said at least 15 people were taken to hospital, many with gunshot wounds, after clashes between supporters of the rival political parties in the run-up to the Maltese general elections.

Prior to his appointment in the foreign service, Mr. Buontempo, 56, worked in the field of medicine in Tunisia and Libya. He is married with two boys and two girls.

Mr. Rifai: It is not a matter of talking peace with one's neighbour, because we are not talking about peace between Jordan and Israel. We are talking about a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem. That includes the Golan Heights of Syria, it includes the problem of southern Lebanon, and it certainly includes the Palestinian problem which is at the core of the Middle East dispute. So we are talking about bilateral negotiations.

Mr. Shultz: I have a question for the prime minister. If you don't leave now, how are you going to get to the vice president's at three o'clock? It is now ten past three. (laughter)

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(Continued on page 5)

Home news

American, Arab doctors discuss AIDS, measures of prevention

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — From west to east, public concern about AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, has been dramatically on the increase. A television satellite link made it possible for several concerned individuals in the Arab World to question American specialists on the disease.

Physicians and officials from the Ministries of Health of Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, and the UAE spoke to Dr. Robert Windom, U.S. assistant secretary of health, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief of the laboratory of immunoregulation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday. Participating on the Jordanian panel were Dr. Abdulla Abbadi and Dr. Al-eedan Touqan, from the University of Jordan, and Dr. Janet Mizra, representing the Ministry of Health. Other physicians and students from the medical faculty were also present during the programme held at the University of Jordan.

According to Dr. Abbadi, 1959 produced the earliest evidence of the disease, which infects and kills white blood cells, consequently affecting the body's immune and central nervous system. The origin of the virus has been traced to the green monkey in equatorial Africa. Dr. Abbadi explained that the virus found in the green monkeys is very similar to the AIDS virus found in humans. Stressing that this theory is purely speculative, he said "this virus, probably the origin of our disease."

After the AIDS virus has gone through a certain stage in its development, there is no cure for it. It took until 1981 for AIDS to be clinically recognised in the U.S. "The incubation period was longer than we thought," said Dr. Fauci. In the past five years, 200,000 cases have been reported in the U.S.; half have ended in

deaths. Half a million are thought to be infected with the virus of which 25 to 50 per cent are likely to develop the disease in the coming 10-15 years.

In the early 1980's, 80 per cent of those infected were homosexuals. Dr. Windom said that the U.S. has witnessed a decrease in this figure to 60 per cent due to increased awareness among homosexuals and transmission to women through bisexual relationships. He noted that 4 per cent of those infected are heterosexuals, but this figure is expected to rise to 7 or 8 per cent.

The only control for the disease is education, according to both specialists. Dr. Fauci said that education should stress "safe sex." "The most important aspect is that, if you do not know if your partner has the disease or not, the man should use a condom. This method has proven to be an effective block to the virus and protects the other partner from infection." "We presume education will be an effective means to modify people's behaviour," he continued.

Dispelling previous notions, Dr. Fauci clarified that the virus is not transmittable through casual contact, mosquito bites, sneezing or saliva, although he did recommend that saliva exchange be avoided during sexual contact.

Donating blood does not transmit AIDS, but use of unsanitary needles or sharing needles may transmit it, he said. Those most vulnerable to the disease are people who have sexual contact with a multiplicity of partners and IV drug abusers. AIDS can also be transmitted from mother to child, Dr. Fauci said.

Dr. Touqan said that Jordan was relatively free of AIDS "as sexually promiscuity and IV drug abuse is not wide spread,

French theatre group brings Beckett's highly acclaimed 'Endgame' to Amman

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Royal Cultural Centre this week is a rare chance to see Samuel Beckett's highly acclaimed "Endgame." Performed in the original French version by the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient, the play has been brought to Amman by the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Royal Theatre Company, the A.F.A.A., Air France, and the Grand Palace Hotel.

"The public is not aware that the AIDS virus can be caught by casual sexual contact, paid sex, and drug abuse," he said, suggesting that more education become available through television and newspapers.

Dr. Janet Mizra showed the Jordan Times a post card made by the Ministries of Health and Education warning passengers of the dangers of AIDS and ways it can be contacted. "These were issued at the beginning of the year and are given to those travelling abroad" as a first step in avoiding AIDS, she said.

Anyone who wishes to have their blood screened can do so at the Ministry of Health, a Blood Bank in Ashrafieh, King Hussein Medical Centre, and the University of Jordan Hospital. Voluntary screening, especially for pregnant mothers, drug abusers, and those involved in pre-marital sex, was suggested by Dr. Windom.

Dr. Windom said the World Health Organisation is playing a major role in communities where the virus is prevalent and where education efforts are lacking; "international cooperation is on the rise." A conference on a possible vaccine against AIDS held a few weeks ago by the U.S. National Institute of Health has decided to have several vaccination trials, said Dr. Fauci. In addition education has brought an awareness of other sexually transmitted diseases.

leads only to loneliness and death. With Hamm's parents Nagg and Nell who occasionally wake to reminisce from the trancism in which they are confined, the play is bleak and enigmatic, yet at the same time unsettlingly funny, Beckett's precision of style and extravagance of conception marking him out as a first class comic writer.

Theatre of the Absurd'

"Fin de Partie" and Beckett's earlier and highly acclaimed play "Waiting for Godot" epitomise the genre of "Theatre of the Absurd." A revolt against conventional theatre, it introduced a new theatrical "language" based on a "more abstract form with concrete images symbolism, repetition and intensification. This type of poetic theatre allows for a more economic treatment and contributes greatly to liberating



Scene from Samuel Beckett's highly acclaimed play 'Fin de Partie' performed by the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient and directed by Robert Mazet

the theatre from the stagnation of elaborate naturalism." Beckett's plays, like those of Pinter and Ionesco, try to reproduce an inner world of human dreams, fantasies, fears and desires while also exposing loneliness, isolation and above all the futility of man's existence and his "inability to escape the 'nightmare' of his living body."

The Theatre Quotidien de Lorient, founded in 1980, is co-directed by two young actors/directors Philippe Froger and Jean Le Scouarnec. With a repertoire that consists mainly of classics such as playwrights as Chekhov, Corneille, Moliere, Cervantes and Shakespeare, the company has recently been appointed by the French Ministry of Culture as the Regional Drama Centre of Brittany with the mission of developing culture and theatre in the area. Their version of "Fin de Partie," which is directed by Robert Mazet, who also plays the part of Nagg, has already received some very favourable reviews.

Favourable reviews

The Ouest-France writes that in this production "Talent is at the highest level" and that Scouarnec's and Froger's interpretation is "vigorous and sensitive." Jean Baron in Le Croix writes that: "the two comedians, Philippe Froger and Jean Le Scouarnec not only take obvious pleasure in appearing absurd but also enjoy showing themselves as laughable. Mazet's direction" he continues "underlines each character's solitude and the seclusion to which they are condemned."

"Fin de Partie (Endgame) will be performed for one night only on April 9 at 8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre. The performance will be followed by a debate in French and English on "Beckett and the Theatre" with members from the Theatre Quotidien de Lorient.

Favourable reviews

SIX Arabic magazines have recently appeared on Jordanian news stands. Some use "sensation" in their marketing strategy, others touch on social and economic subjects. However, all have two things in common: None of them is political and most importantly, although they are Jordanian in content, not one is printed in Jordan.

The reason is simple. The government is not granting new licences for new periodicals. So, any new prospectus in the field of journalism gets a "licence" in Cyprus or Britain but still uses Jordan as its main market. These magazines have their customers here. Priced lower than other Arab magazines, it is only normal that Jordanians who have limited local reading material are interested in them. There are lots of reservations about the journalistic value of some of these magazines. One in particular uses sensationalism and exaggerates news and articles to a ridiculous level. But nevertheless, the readership of these magazines seems to be on the increase.

The point that I want to make however is that, unfortunately, most of the income from these magazines is being shifted outside the country because they are being printed abroad. Granting them licences would certainly be more profitable for the country as it would generate income, create jobs in the printing sector and improve the quality of printing in the country through increased competition. If conformity of those magazines is the major concern, as one official put it, then government guidelines for all should be drawn up and licences issued accordingly.

Maybe we will end by having 100 per cent pure Jordanian magazines which would focus more on Jordanian issues and which would also compete until we get the journalistic level for which we yearn.

Rifai: Progress made in U.S. talks

(Continued from page 4) remittances dropped 10 per cent in 1985 and again last year. The economy is not being replenished by sufficient investments, which have contracted about 10 per cent annually since 1983. Unemployment is about 8 per cent and has been increasing, especially in the youth segment of the population.

Our ESF (economic support funds) proposal for \$18 million will be used to support highlands agriculture, water, sewerage services, health, and technical training projects in Jordan. The ESF level proposed for 1988 represents a slight increase over the \$15 million allocated in 1988 and the \$14 million in 1987. It includes two components: \$11 million for Jordanian programmes and \$7 million for Jordan's recent West Bank/Gaza initiative.

In 1988, King Hussein announced an ambitious effort to stimulate economic growth and improve living conditions in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Jordan's initiative is designed to build on its longstanding ties to those areas and to show its concern for Palestinians there. We decided to make an early contribution to this initiative in order to demonstrate our confidence in Jordan's efforts and to stimulate Jordan's other friends to contribute. We provided \$5.5 million from FY 1988's year-end funds and are providing \$7 million in 1987. Our effort will benefit residents of the Occupied Territories and give them a stake in progress toward peace.

Seminar on tyres slated for April 16

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on energy savings as a result of using radial tyres on vehicles is scheduled to be held on April 16 at the Ministry of Energy. The seminar, which will convene under the patronage of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib, will give the audience an insight into the benefits of radial tires in rationalising energy consumption.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

Controversy surfaces over society for needy neurological patients

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The charity march across Jordan has created an unexpected myriad of criticism. Controversy was sparked by physicians alleging that participants and donors had been misled while members of the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients deny these charges.

My main objection is to the name of the society coordinating the march. It gives the impression that it is a national society while it is a private society to help needy patients coming to a private hospital (Palestine Hospital), said Dr. Maraqqa, a neurosurgeon and head of the Jordan Neurosciences Society (JNS).

"After the march began, I found it my duty to explain that there was no tie between the Society for the Care of Neurological Patients and the JNS and that it is a private hospital's charity society, not a national charity society," Dr. Maraqqa said. Dr. Maraqqa stressed that he was not against the society nor the Palestine Hospital, but that the society was misleading in its name and in declaring the scope of its activities. He said that if it had been called the "society for care of neurological patients at Palestine Hospital" no one could object.

"Palestine Hospital will collect more money on a national level. I know quite a few people who

were reluctant to donate when they knew it was for a private hospital. Their previous impression was that the funds were to help poor patients all over the country and that it was not just limited to patients at Palestine Hospital," he said.

In response, Dr. Nassri Khoury, a founder of the society, said that the society is a charitable society and was established under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in July 1986 with Her Highness Princess Majda as president.

The aim of the society was to establish and administer an independent charitable fund to support the treatment of needy neurological patients in a specialised section for these diseases," said Dr. Khoury. The society was formed by a number of concerned individuals who felt it important to open this proposed service to all patients, regardless of their financial status, and thereby the society will cover the expenses of needy patients, who have no medical insurance, at this proposed centre.

Dr. Khoury went on to explain why the centre will be located on the premises of the Palestine Hospital. "Palestine Hospital was the only medical institution to accept a five-year staff exchange programme offered by the University of Toronto and John Hopkins University," he said. These two major neuroscience centres

will be sending nurses, physiotherapists and doctors to help train personnel.

This offer was made to all concerned medical institutions in Jordan. All expressed moral support but, unfortunately, none were able to adopt it, and rather than lose this opportunity we began implementing the project at Palestine Hospital," Dr. Khoury said, adding that once work was started "we received unanimous support from all concerned."

The society is totally independent from the Palestine Hospital, both financially and administratively, and its services are open to all needy patients under the care of any neurological specialist who wishes to use the services of the proposed centre," he continued.

Dr. Maraqqa feels that since the money was donated by those who contributed under the impression that it was a national society, "the money should be made available to all poor neurological patients in any Jordanian hospital."

Dr. Khoury repeated that the services of the society were available to all needy patients under the care of any specialist who wishes to use the centre at Palestine Hospital.

Another objection raised and cited by Dr. Maraqqa was: "We do not need training as we have been establishing a name in the Arab World and Europe for years." Also he said: "Palestine Hospital does not have any additional facilities, not even a CT scanner."

"Although neurosciences have come a long way in Jordan, they are still in the developing stages.

saying that the concept of a charitable fund in a private hospital is not totally new. The Palestine Hospital has had a fund for poor patients since it was first established and the Islamic Hospital also has a similar fund. "It would be a major step forward if every private hospital were to have a poor patients' fund so that needy patients are not turned away because of financial limitations, when they require medical attention as is happening now," he said.

Other founding members of the Society for Care of Neurological Patients include: Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Princess Majda Ra'd, Mrs. Widad Qawar, Health Minister Zaid Hamzah, Archbishop Elia Khoury, Mr. Kamal Dajani, Dr. Michel Marto, Dr. Yasser Amro, and Dr. Ashraf Kurdi.

The committee formed a number of teams to supervise the work of the market which this year will be held at Independence Street on Jabal Nuzha, Amman.

Standing committee reviews plans for Ramadan market

AMMAN (Petra) — A standing committee organising the Ramadan charity market, held during the month of Ramadan, met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayat. The committee discussed matters related to the organisation of the annual market and reviewed the experiments of the past two years in this regard.

Projecting Islamic and popular heritage, organising seminars and presenting documentaries will be among the main features of these markets, which are also designed to stimulate the sale of different local commodities.

The committee formed a number of teams to supervise the work of the market which this year will be held at Independence Street on Jabal Nuzha, Amman.

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Sweden's Edberg wins in WCT quarterfinals

DALLAS (AP) — Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the tournaments' top remaining seed, held off a furious rally by Tim Mayotte of the United States, to win 6-2, 7-5, 6-7, 3-6, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the World Championship Tennis (WCT) tournament.

Edberg, the top seed after the surprise withdrawal of first-seeded Boris Becker earlier in the day, moves into Friday's semifinals against the winner of Wednesday's quarterfinal between John McEnroe and Yannick Noah.

The \$675,000 finals, with a top prize of \$200,000, are Sunday morning.

Edberg, 21, the defending WCT finals champion, became the tournament favorite after Becker's withdrawal because of a stomach ailment.

Edberg was on his game early with crisp passing shots, but Mayotte, 26, rallied from two sets

down to even the match with an improved serve and volley game.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, and Mayotte, ranked 10th, entered play as two of the hottest Grand Prix tourists. Edberg's '87 record prior to Tuesday's match was 24-2 and Mayotte was 18-3 in this year's action.

Becker was to have played his first game Thursday.

Tournament director John Gardner said Becker's manager Ion Tiriac notified officials that Becker was suffering from the same symptoms that forced him to withdraw from the Players International Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida, in late February.

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champion and ranked second by the ATP computer, defeated Mecir on Sunday to win the Fila indoor Trophy in Milan.

England's cricket victory sparks riots in India

NEW DELHI (R) — A cricket victory by England over Pakistan Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates sparked a Hindu-Muslim riot in western India, police said Wednesday.

They said two people were stabbed to death and five wounded.

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American NBA roundup Cleveland crushes Boston

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday handed Boston a 107-83 defeat, its biggest loss of the National Basketball Association season.

In other games, it was Milwaukee 95, Washington 94; Indiana 128, New Jersey 114; Chicago 116, Detroit 86; Phoenix 127, Seattle 125 in overtime; Houston 102, Los Angeles Clippers 84; and Denver 129, Golden State 126 in overtime.

Rookies Ron Harper and Brad Daugherty had 30 and 20 points, respectively, for the Cavaliers. Kevin McHale had 23 points for Boston.

The Celtics, who already clinched their division title, must win all five of their remaining regular-season games to become the first NBA team ever with four straight 60-win seasons.

In Seattle, Phoenix kept the Sonics from clinching a playoff spot as Walter Davis scored six of his 31 points in overtime, including the game-winning 15-foot jump shot with four seconds left.

Larry Nance led the Suns with 34 points, while Dale Ellis paced Seattle with 35 points and Xavier

McDaniel added 30.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan survived Detroit's roughhouse tactics and scored 39 points in 26 minutes of Chicago's easy victory.

In Washington, Milwaukee

snapped a six-game road losing streak as John Lucas scored 26 points and played the entire game

against Washington.

Jeff Malone led Washington with 24 points.

In San Francisco, Denver edged closer to a Western Conference playoff berth as Lafayette Lever posted his 16th triple double of the season and burned Golden State by scoring the Nuggets' first eight points in overtime.

Alex English scored 27 points and Hanzlik 26 for the Nuggets, while Warriors center Joe Barry Carroll led all scorers with 37.

In Los Angeles, Akeem Olajuwon had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Houston handed Los Angeles its seventh straight defeat.

The Clippers, loser in 19 of its last 21 games, was led by Tim Kempton with 18 points.

King's Cup boxing enters semifinals

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Boxers from defending champion the Soviet Union, the Philippines and East Germany won their bouts to enter the semifinals of the 18-nation 13th annual King's Cup Amateur Boxing Championships at Bangkok's National Gymnasium.

The Soviets won all four of their bouts, while the Philippines and East Germany each won two bouts in the quarterfinals Tuesday.

In the flyweight division, Prisazinjuk Vadim of the Soviet Union outpointed Vichai Kadpo of Thailand 5-0 and Roberto Jariz of the Philippines outpointed Boonloua Nonluu of Thailand 3-2.

In the featherweight division, Soviet Artemiev Aleksander outpointed David Gakuba of Kenya 4-1 and East German Zulow Andreas knocked out Thai Pracha Dasada in round one.

In the lightweight division, Soviet Khachatryan Samson outpointed Taiwanese Lu Chin Hsing 5-0 while the Philippines' Leopoldo Cantancio stopped Indian Dhamender Prakas Bahitt in round two.

Soviet welterweight Ostrowskij Alexander outpointed Indian Seera Jayaram 5-0 and East German Mehmet Siegered outpointed Denmark's Kenneth Ochieng 5-0.

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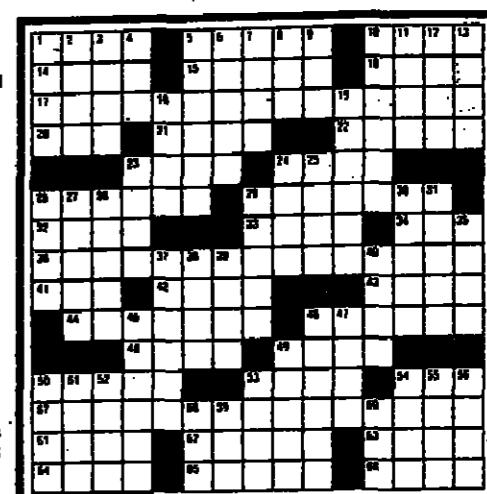
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

CAESARIAH	RAVINE'S
ALPINIE	ELEVATIONS
MALTAIR	SEASCAPE
PURPLEBIRD	SHOOTING
STIGMATE	LATE SIGHT
ATLIERON	AT LAST
CLAIMIS	HERIGON
ENSATZ	THAUMISE
DAHLIA	ABOUNDING
OPERA	WILDFLOWERS
WILHELY	SEASIDE
HEIDI	BRIGGART
BRIGGART	LYSTRE
THREESIES	EXITED

50 Fast jets 55 Near and Far —
51 The one there 56 "Jovely as a
52 Young ago 57 "I'm
53 Age 58 "They're —!"
54 Money in 59 Theatre sign
55 Monterey 60 R.L. red

THE Daily Crossword

by Reginald L. Johnson



ACROSS	1 Minus	5 Antidote	10 Where Pinar del Rio is	14 Areas of	18 Ordinary language	16 The Red	17 Old fashioned Acute intonation	21 Brain wave in Paris	22 Freeman work	23 Dashed	24 Like — of bricks	25 Capes	26 Fired	28 Blue dye	34 Republic of Ira.	36 Large vessel	41 Under followers	42 Chemists suffix	43 Name of old M.t. book	44 Manor houses	45 Son of Zeus	46 River edge	47 Old home to Virgil	48 Family member	49 Over followers	50 Node	51 Zip	53 Year	54 Chum	55 Crampon	56 Shoe part	57 Mythical nymph	58 Lacelaced	59 Topical fruit	60 Letter	61 Building material	62 Caspian leeder	63 Capstan leader	64 Son of Zeta	65 Catcall power	66 Being Lat.	67 Date's opposite	68 Baptism	69 Recreptacles	70 Letter	71 Isolated	72 Son of Seth	73 Kind of sign	74 Windows to G.	75 Silt in bridge	76 Bobbed	77 Went by bus	78 Country	79 Program	80 All the King's men	81 Son of King	82 Sudden gust	83 Single	84 Domino	85 Good folks	86 Geraint's wife	87 Sudden gust	88 Single	89 Double	90 Celebrations	91 Bounce	92 Classic poet	93 Poet	94 Apprehended	95 Bone pref.	96 Single	97 Doubles	98 Double	99 Double	100 Double	101 Double	102 Double	103 Double	104 Double	105 Double	106 Double	107 Double	108 Double	109 Double	110 Double	111 Double	112 Double	113 Double	114 Double	115 Double	116 Double	117 Double	118 Double	119 Double	120 Double	121 Double	122 Double	123 Double	124 Double	125 Double	126 Double	127 Double	128 Double	129 Double	130 Double	131 Double	132 Double	133 Double	134 Double	135 Double	136 Double	137 Double	138 Double	139 Double	140 Double	141 Double	142 Double	143 Double	144 Double	145 Double	146 Double	147 Double	148 Double	149 Double	150 Double	151 Double	152 Double	153 Double	154 Double	155 Double	156 Double	157 Double	158 Double	159 Double	160 Double	161 Double	162 Double	163 Double	164 Double	165 Double	166 Double	167 Double	168 Double	169 Double	170 Double	171 Double	172 Double	173 Double	174 Double	175 Double	176 Double	177 Double	178 Double	179 Double	180 Double	181 Double	182 Double	183 Double	184 Double	185 Double	186 Double	187 Double	188 Double	189 Double	190 Double	191 Double	192 Double	193 Double	194 Double	195 Double	196 Double	197 Double	198 Double	199 Double	200 Double	201 Double	202 Double	203 Double	204 Double	205 Double	206 Double	207 Double	208 Double	209 Double	210 Double	211 Double	212 Double	213 Double	214 Double	215 Double	216 Double	217 Double	218 Double	219 Double	220 Double	221 Double	222 Double	223 Double	224 Double	225 Double	226 Double	227 Double	228 Double	229 Double	230 Double	231 Double	232 Double	233 Double	234 Double	235 Double	236 Double	237 Double	238 Double	239 Double	240 Double	241 Double	242 Double	243 Double	244 Double	245 Double	246 Double	247 Double	248 Double	249 Double	250 Double	251 Double	252 Double	253 Double	254 Double	255 Double	256 Double	257 Double	258 Double	259 Double	260 Double	261 Double	262 Double	263 Double	264 Double	265 Double	266 Double	267 Double	268 Double	269 Double	270 Double	271 Double	272 Double	273 Double	274 Double	275 Double	276 Double	277 Double	278 Double	279 Double	280 Double	281 Double	282 Double	283 Double	284 Double	285 Double	286 Double	287 Double	288 Double	289 Double	290 Double	291 Double	292 Double	293 Double	294 Double	295 Double	296 Double	297 Double	298 Double	299 Double	300 Double	301 Double	302 Double	303 Double	304 Double	305 Double	306 Double	307 Double	308 Double	309 Double	310 Double	311 Double	312 Double	313 Double	314 Double	315 Double	316 Double	317 Double	318 Double	319 Double	320 Double	321 Double	322 Double	323 Double	324 Double	325 Double	326 Double	327 Double	328 Double	329 Double	330 Double	331 Double	332 Double	333 Double	334 Double	335 Double	336 Double	337 Double	338 Double	339 Double	340 Double	341 Double	342 Double	343 Double	344 Double	345 Double	346 Double	347 Double	348 Double	349 Double	350 Double	351 Double	352 Double	353 Double	354 Double	355 Double	356 Double	357 Double	358 Double	359 Double	360 Double	361 Double	362 Double	363 Double	364 Double	365 Double	366 Double	367 Double	368 Double	369 Double	370 Double	371 Double	372 Double	373 Double	374 Double	375 Double	376 Double	377 Double	378 Double	379 Double	380 Double	381 Double	382 Double	383 Double	384 Double	385 Double	386 Double	387 Double	388 Double	389 Double	390 Double	391 Double	392 Double	393 Double

President Reagan to name USAID head to Treasury

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will nominate the head of the U.S. programme for Third World Development, Mr. Peter McPherson, as second-ranking officer of the Treasury Department, administration sources said Tuesday. They said the White House was expected to announce the successor to Mr. Richard Darman as deputy treasury secretary later this week. The nomination is subject to Senate approval.

Mr. McPherson has headed the Agency for International Development (AID) since 1981.

As Treasury Secretary James Baker's chief assistant, he would be expected to work closely on international economic policy, including the major problems of the Mexican and Brazilian debts. Mr. McPherson, a lawyer, worked in the White House under President Gerald Ford after serving as a corporate tax specialist for the government. He also spent two years in Peru as a member of the peace corps. Mr. Darman, who was considered to have played a central role in achieving agreements among industrial countries on international economic policy, will leave the treasury on April 13 to join the investment banking group of Shearson Lehman Brothers.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One sterling	1.6145/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3068/73	Canadian dollar
	1.8335/45	West German marks
	2.0680/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5205/15	Swiss francs
	1.5235/45	Belgian francs
	6.0975/1025	French francs
	1306/307	Italian lire
	146.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.3825/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8525/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.9150/9200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	422.20/70	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is particularly good for finding better ways to express your special aptitudes. Tonight you find an argumentative aspect in effect, so keep cool and calm.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have fine new ways of putting your talents across. Don't lose your temper after a day of accomplishments.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep the promises made to your family. It's not a good evening to invite guests into your abode.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with individuals who are nearby and those you have recently met. Arrange to get to know them better.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have clever ideas for making more money. Put them into motion with advice from respected advisers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are highly inspired with conditions from the past and new ideas. Get in touch with people who can help you now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are full of good ideas on how to get ahead faster, but don't confide in others until you have started them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may be overly confined at home when you should be out seeing loyal friends who can help you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get out early in the world of action and be ambitiously occupied so that you can get ahead faster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try a new approach at gaining your ambitions. After a fine day of activity, relax tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Old contacts and new ones can be helpful to you today. Discuss your ambitions with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be with those of fine character and great ambition and you are truly inspired again. Make life more satisfying.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make your environment lovely today. Add articles of beauty and charm. Inspire those around you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a great imagination and be able to attain a great deal both in standard activities and in more modern ones. Know your progeny's potentials and slant the education along lines that will fit him, or her, for governmental connections.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unsettling problems can be difficult for you to solve, but don't put them off. You have the chance to forge ahead today through any tensions you encounter.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may find that the details connected with your work seem unending, but use patience and all work out fine.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) An argument between the one you love and a friend has to be resolved before you can have the fun you anticipate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Home and property affairs may pose problems for you today, but study them objectively and they're soon solved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may have difficulty in communicating with others, but don't throw in the sponge or you lose out.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You seem to be on the verge of disaster where finances are concerned, but make a wise move and you come out on top.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Keep busy in going after some personal wish. You find that an associate can be helpful in your tasks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study the tense situation around you and steer clear of acquaintances who like to criticize you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You find it difficult to get friends to do what you wish today, so depend more on yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Outside affairs require much of your time now. Avoid an altercation between family and associates.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan time to study into new outlets. Don't fret over something you have little control over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can seize a fine business opportunity today, so don't permit others to deter you from doing this.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be depressed over some outside matter and will want to make dramatic changes, but don't.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be able to do work of a very detailed nature and would be very successful in any type of business that has such a prerequisite. There may be a temptation to make a sudden change at the wrong time, so teach your progeny the value of being steadfast.

Youth unemployment intensifies

GENEVA (AP) — Young people are hardest hit by unemployment in both industrialised and developing countries, according to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) survey released Tuesday.

Nearly half the jobless in several countries are in the 15-to-24 age group, which bears the brunt of continuing high rates of unemployment," the U.N. agency said. The survey used 1985

figures, the latest statistics available.

Work opportunities are especially sparse in developing countries, where the young make up 34 per cent of the work force, the ILO said.

A youth unemployment high of 73 per cent was reported by Costa Rica. Italy put the rate at 50 per cent, the highest among industrialised nations, it said.

The least youthlessness was reported by Finland and Greece

at 24 per cent, the ILO said.

The survey said unemployment figures for Africa were not available but the region "probably faced the most serious" situation.

In the Third World, the number of young workers is expected to grow to 1.117 billion by the year 2025 from 755 million in 1985, nearly a 50 per cent rise.

"This will put an even greater strain on the labour market to provide jobs for the young," the ILO said.

U.S. halts further cash to Egypt pending reforms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is holding up further cash aid for Egypt until that country implements additional economic reforms, assistant secretary of state, Mr. Richard Murphy, said Tuesday.

The United States gave Egypt \$115 million earlier this fiscal year after the Egyptian government carried out a series of economic measures, including a reduction of government expenditure, subsidy cuts for food and cotton and a simplification of the exchange rate.

But Mr. Murphy said the State Department would not give Egypt any more in cash unless it implements further measures designed to cut Egypt's budget and balance of payment deficits.

"We have made clear to the Egyptian government that there would be no further cash transfers" for the time being, said Mr. Murphy, testifying before the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

"Many of us are becoming increasingly worried about Egypt's ability to use aid as a tool for

improving policy rather than as a crutch," Mr. Obey said.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan is asking Congress to allot \$2.3 billion in military and economic aid for fiscal 1988 which begins Oct. 1. Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel.

Mr. Murphy said the United States was awaiting the outcome of loan negotiations between Egypt, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

A delegation of the IMF has just returned from talks in Cairo with a letter of intent in which Egypt undertook to carry out additional reforms in return for loan money, a State Department official said. The official said he did not know how much loan money was being discussed.

Egypt already has an external debt of \$38 billion.

Kuwait may pipe oil across S. Arabia

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is studying proposals to pipe oil across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea in a bid to reduce its reliance on the war-torn Gulf waterway, Gulf-based oil industry sources said Tuesday.

They said two feasibility studies were submitted to the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) within the past month by its wholly-owned engineering arm Santa F. Braun.

The studies coincided with contacts between Kuwait and the United States and Soviet Union on possible military or logistical assistance with oil shipments through the Gulf.

Iran, whose ground conflict with Iraq spilled over three years ago into the so-called "tanker war" in the waterway, has waged a campaign of reprisals against Kuwait because of its backing for Baghdad.

Of 19 attacks on shipping in the Gulf blamed on Iran since mid-September, 14 have been on vessels trading with Kuwait.

Washington has offered to protect Kuwaiti tankers, but U.S. officials say Kuwait has turned down the idea for the time being.

The Japanese and West German governments have promised to hear their economies, but are worried that too much stimulus to business could bring on inflation.

Pohl warns of 'crash landing'

In another comment, the president of West Germany's central bank, Mr. Karl Otto Pohl, cautioned on Tuesday that a "crash landing" of the U.S. dollar against other major currencies could trigger a worldwide recession.

Mr. Pohl said he favoured continuing a six-nation agreement, reached last Feb. 22 in Paris, to stabilise the dollar.

General Manager Vincent Connolly said in the company's 1986 annual report spending this year would be slashed to around \$300 million from \$450 million

ADCO to slash budget and workforce

ABU DHABI (R) — The largest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO), said Tuesday it would continue budget and manpower cuts begun last year in the face of declining oil revenue.

Manpower, which fell 16 per cent in 1986 to 1,225 from 1,458 in 1985, would be cut further by mid-1987, although Mr. Connolly did not give figures.

Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer in the UAE, suffered a sharp drop in revenue last year when world oil prices slumped.

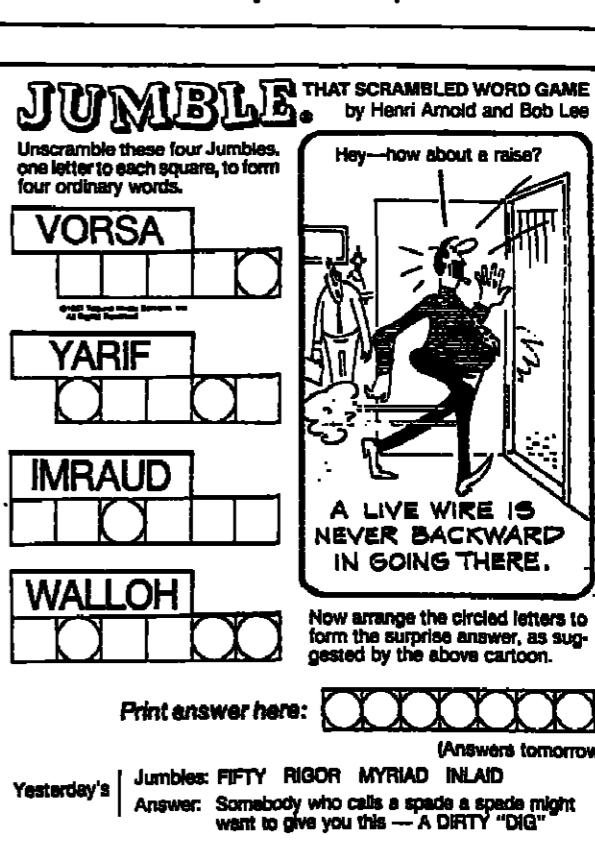
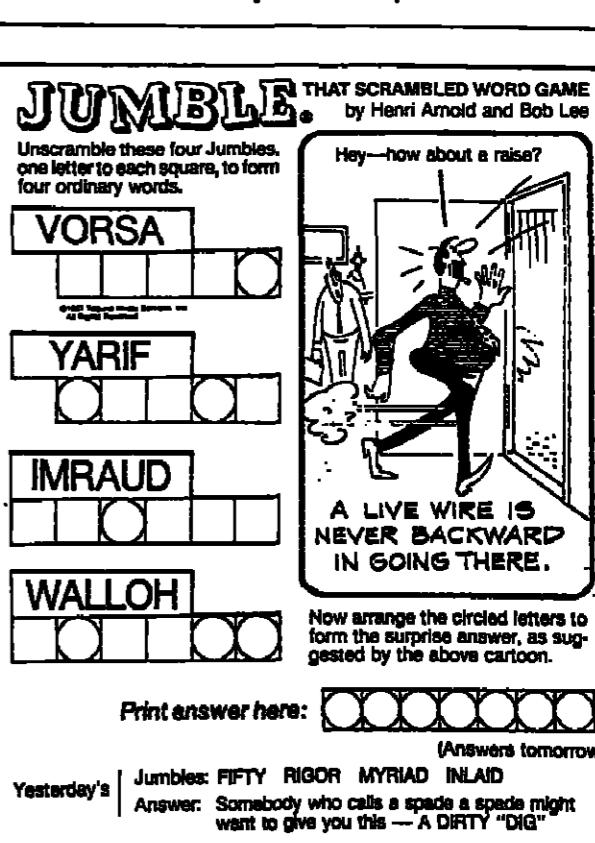
Mr. Connolly said a plan to reduce the number of drilling and workover rigs by almost three-

quarters in less than two years was initiated last year.

Field development programmes at the Bab and Sahel oilfields were suspended and oil production facilities at the Bab field mothballed, Mr. Connolly said.

Oil gathering and water injection facilities at Asab and a new oil gathering system at Bahusah were completed and commissioned.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



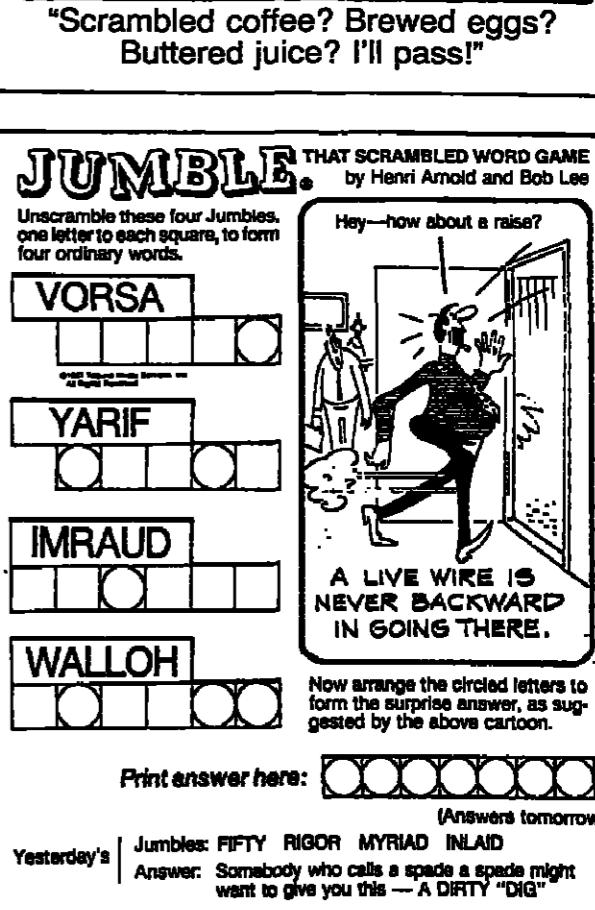
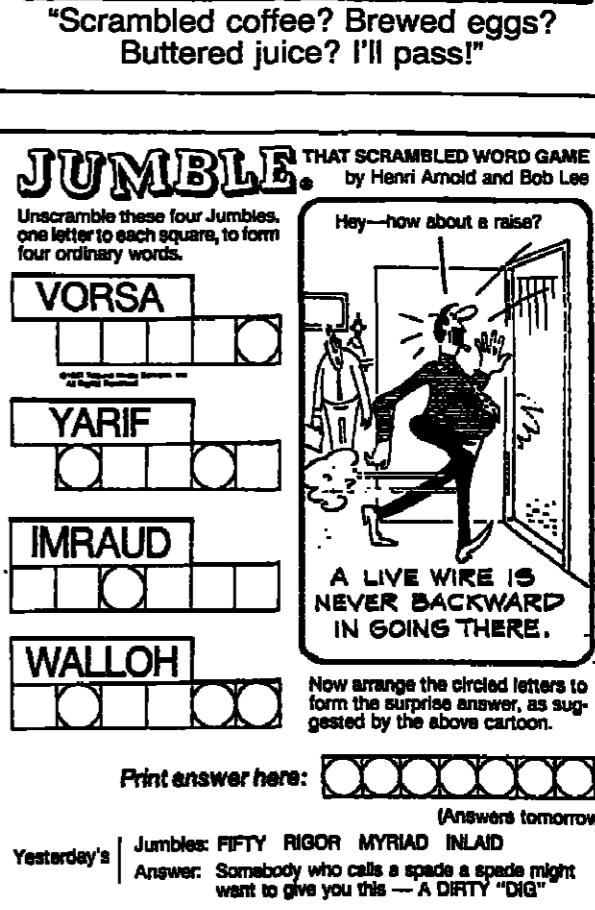
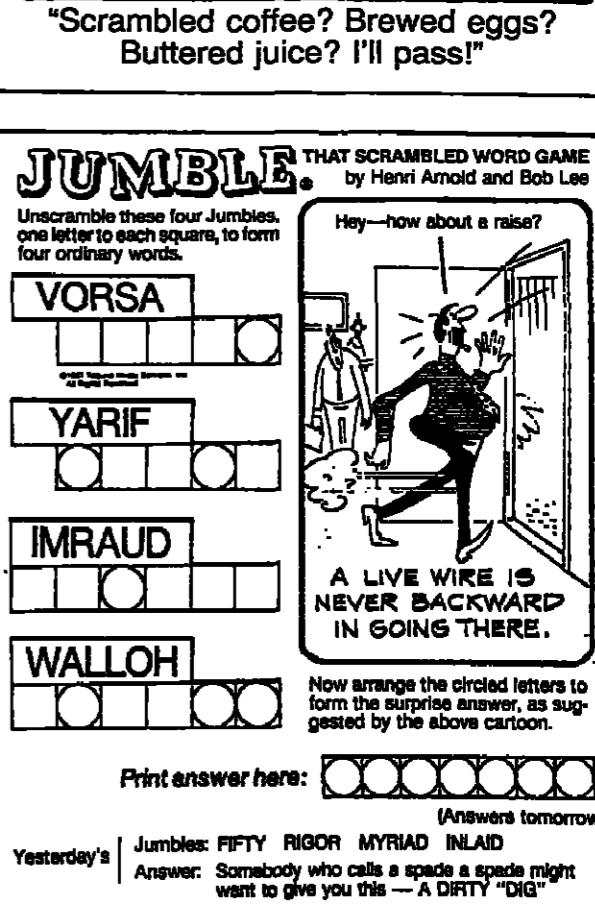
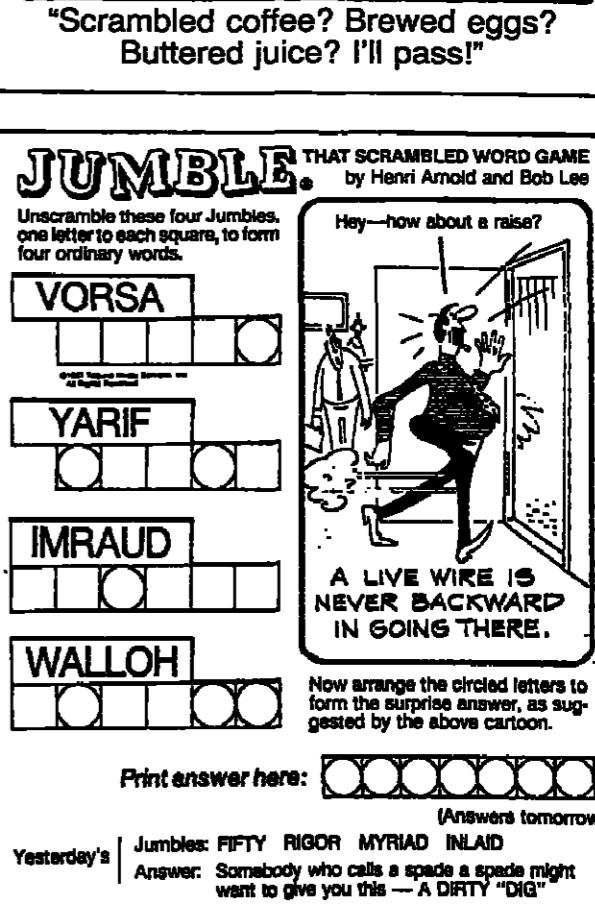
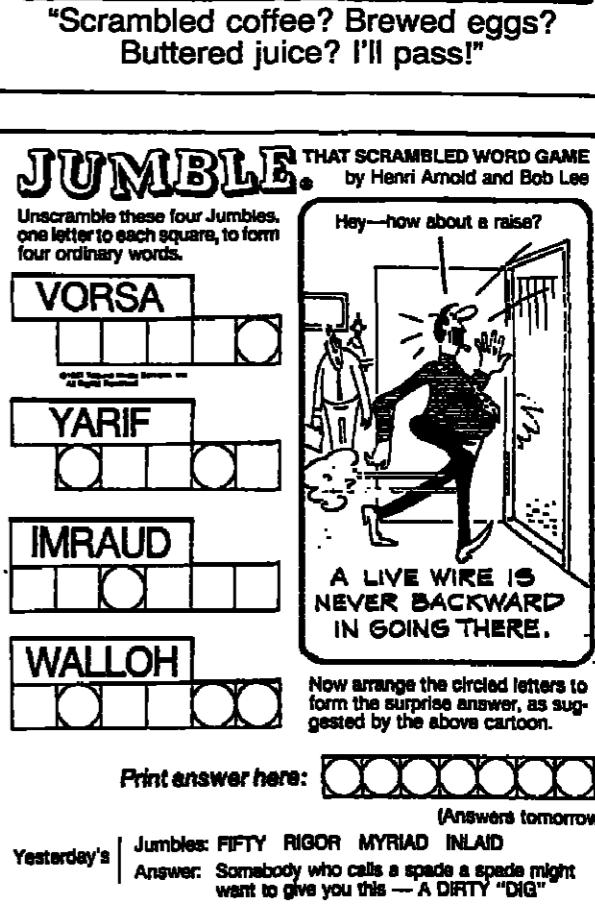
Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Divers recover 83 bodies from partly submerged British ferry

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (AP) — Divers recovered 83 corpses Wednesday from the partly submerged British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, and the search continued for more bodies inside the multi-deck vessel, officials said.

Paul Ellis, a spokesman for Townsend Thoresen Co., the ferry's owner, said most of the bodies had been removed and put ashore in the early morning hours.

He said divers later spotted another "tangle of bodies" that other officials said appeared to total about 20 victims.

The recovery effort was to continue throughout the day.

The bodies of 134 victims were believed to be inside the ship before salvage workers righted the vessel on Tuesday, although officials have said their count may be

incorrect due to confusion about the number of survivors.

Prior to Wednesday, 61 bodies

had been recovered from the stricken ship, which went down on March 6. An estimated 348 people survived.

Teams of Belgian and British navy divers, working in the early hours of the morning, hauled the 83 bodies out of the upper decks where many passengers had congregated in the moments before the ferry capsized about one mile outside the entrance to Zeebrugge Harbour.

Ellis said the recovered bodies

were taken to the nearby Zeebrugge naval base for identification.

The 19 divers, working in mild weather and moderate seas, continued searching areas of the ferry above the water line on Wednesday in hopes of finding more of the bodies still trapped inside.

Officials said they believed many bodies would be found in the lower decks, which remained submerged and strewn with broken bulkheads, furniture and other debris. It was expected to take at least several days to complete a search of these areas of the ferry, officials said.

Efforts to make the ship watertight and to pump out the water and silt inside were to begin later Wednesday.

Huge floating cranes and flat-

bottom barges pulled and hoisted the 7,951-ton ferry onto its keel on Tuesday in an arduous operation that lasted more than eight hours.

Officials have not encouraged relatives to see the dead. But Lt. Col. Willy Bruggeman, a Belgian state police said: "If they want to see the bodies we will grant that request, of course."

In all, officials said, less than a dozen relatives have come to Zeebrugge.

After identification, the bodies will be taken to a mortuary at St. John's Hospital in nearby Bruges before repatriation.

Police Chief Roger De Bree said the 19 British and Belgian navy divers "face a very macabre situation. They will look for people who narrowly did not make it."

U.S. monitoring Soviet subs in western Atlantic

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and NATO forces are monitoring what appears to be the largest deployment of Soviet nuclear attack submarines in the western Atlantic since 1985, the Pentagon has said.

"The Soviet undersea exercise is believed to include several classes of hunter-killer boats, including the nuclear-powered Victor class," according to one defence official, who asked not to be identified.

The Pentagon declined to say how many submarines were involved in the exercise, whether they included the new silent Akula class hunter-killer subs, or exactly where the exercise was taking place.

But it said in a brief statement to reporters that about a half dozen Soviet submarines took part in the last such western Atlantic exercise in the summer of 1985.

The officials said the current Soviet deployment was not routine, but that U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO forces were maintaining surveillance and there was no increased threat to U.S. interests.

"The submarines, among the quietest and most capable in the Soviet navy, probably deployed from the Soviet Northern Fleet last month," the statement said.

"These submarines are being routinely monitored by U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO forces."

Attack submarines are designed to find and destroy other submarine and surface vessels. Pentagon officials have complained in recent weeks that Moscow has made major strides recently in improving the capability of its underwater fleet.

The officials said the current Soviet deployment was not routine, but that U.S. Atlantic Command and NATO forces were maintaining surveillance and there was no increased threat to U.S. interests.

Chicago mayor reelected

CHICAGO (R) — Chicago's first black mayor has claimed a re-election victory and said his first term in office has helped create a new image for America's third largest city.

Mayor Harold Washington, 64, whose first four-year term was marked by clashes with his city council, said his solid win at the polls Tuesday would put an end to the city's racial and political divide.

News organisation polls indicated that Mr. Washington won with heavy support once again from blacks, who make up 40 per cent of voters in the city's population of three million.

"The whole world is watching

\$20 million in contra aid reportedly unaccounted for

NEW YORK (R) — Nicaraguan contra rebels received \$83 million to \$97 million from the Reagan administration and other sources over a two-year period but cannot account for \$20 million of it, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said internal White House memos and interviews with officials indicated that "... the total raised was at least \$38 million more than the \$45 million the contras said they needed to fight the Sandinistas."

The amount, covering 1984 to 1986, did not include another missing \$10 million that was reportedly transferred from weapons sales to Iran, the paper said.

It quoted federal government

and congressional investigators as saying they suspect at least some of the money unaccounted for was spent on contra-support activities directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the National Security Council (NSC) aide who was dismissed after the first disclosure of the Iran-contra arms affair last November.

Public assistance to the contras was banned by Congress in 1984, except for \$27 million in aid for the purchase of non-military goods that was approved in 1985.

The newspaper said that in addition to the U.S. aid, major contributions to the contras included \$32 million from Saudi Arabia and 10 million from Brunei.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettinger

